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# PLO MILITIAMEN GUARDED U.S. EMBASSY IN LEBANON

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WASHINGTON — The PLO provided security for the U.S. Embassy in Beirut despite strict guidelines forbidding contacts with the terrorist organization, it was learned yesterday.

The astonishing disclosure was made by Robert Oakley, the State Dept.'s top counter-terrorism expert at a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on terrorism.

Oakley said that from the mid-1970s until the June 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon, PLO militiamen were responsible for security in the diplomatic area of West Beirut and that the U.S. had no choice but to cooperate.

Oakley and other State Dept. officials acknowledged that there were "informal contacts," between U.S. diplomats and the PLO militiamen but stressed that in no way was the U.S. giving diplomatic recognition to the terrorist organization.

"The PLO was the organization there that was able to control that particular diplomatic area," Oakley said.

"It had nothing to do with recognition."

Since 1975, the U.S. has pledged not to talk with or recognize the PLO

until it renounces terrorism and pledges support for UN resolutions 242 and 338 — which call for recognition of Israel.

Victor Harel, a spokesman for the Israeli embassy here, said in response to the disclosure, that Israel has been satisfied that the U.S. has lived up to that pledge.

Sources also said yesterday that the PLO was a valuable source of intelligence for the CIA.

The PLO had established a sophisticated communications network throughout Lebanon and U.S. agents were able to tap into it from time to time.